

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 13483 111315Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4368

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: PROTEST LETTER FROM THREE THAI JOURNALISTS ASSOICATIONS

FOLLOWING IS USICA TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF PROTEST LETTER FROM
THREE THAI JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATIONS TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE,
REGARDING TREATMENT OF THE THAI PRESS DURING THE VICE PRESI-
DENT'S VISIT:

1. "THIS LETTER IS SENT BY US ON BEHALF OF ALL PERSONS
ENGAGED IN THE NEWSPAPER PROFESSION IN THAILAND TO EXPRESS OUR
DEEP SORROW TO YOU AND TO PROTEST TO YOU THROUGH THE AMERICAN
EMBASSY IN THAILAND.

2. "THE THAI GOVERNMENT AND THE THAI PEOPLE, INCLUDING ALL
THAI MASS MEDIA, WERE VERY HAPPY TO WELCOME YOU WHEN YOU MADE
AN OFFICIAL VISI TO THAILAND MAY 4 AND 5, THUS EMPHASIZING
THE CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AND THE
PEOPLE OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

3. "THAI NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED REPORTS OF YOUR VISIT BEFORE
YOUR ARRIVAL IN THAILAND, WHICH IS PART OF THEIR DUTY AS
NEWSPAPERMEN, AND BECAUSE OF GOOD, SINCERE INTENTIONS TOWARD
YOU. BUT MOST DEPLORABLE INCIDENTS OCCURRED, OBSTRUCTING THAI
NEWSMEN AND PREVENTING THEM FROM PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES AS
PLANNED AND INTENDED THRUHOUT YOUR VISIT. THIS WAS DUE
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TO YOUR SECURITY OFFICIALS BEHAVING IN A MOST VULGAR AND
ARROGANT MANNER, FAILING TO SHOW ANY RESPECT TO PERSONS
ENGAGED IN THAI NEWSPAPER WORK AND ACTING TOWARD THEM AS
IF THAILAND WERE A COLONY. THEREFORE, THAI REPORTERS WERE
UNABLE TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES AND EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO
COVER THE NEWS.

4. "THE INCIDENTS THAT OCCURRED BETWEEN REPORTERS AND CAMERAMEN TOOK PLACE IN FRONT OF HUNDREDS OF AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS MAY 4 AND 5 WHILE YOU WERE VISITING VARIOUS PLACES, ESPECIALLY THE REFUGEE CENTER AT DIN DAENG. YOUR SECURITY OFFICIALS USED MOST UGLY AND BAD MANNERS TOWARD THAI REPORTERS AND EVEN INTERFERRED WITH SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN BY THAI OFFICIALS. THEY REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE THE PASSES ISSUED TO THAI NEWSMEN AND CAMERAMEN BY THE THAI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THUS PREVENTING THEM FROM COVERING THE NEWS AND TAKING PICTURES OF YOU ON MAY 5. THEY PROVIDED FACILITIES AND SHOWED RESPECT TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ONLY. THE SEARCH OF THAI REPORTERS WAS AN INSULT AND A VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF THE THAI PRESS AND AND NEWSMEN WHO ARE THAIS AND OWNERS OF OUR COUNTRY. THIS IS WHY THE THAI PRESS PROTESTED BY NOT ATTENDING THE OFFICIAL NEWS CONFERENCE IN THE ERAWAN HOTEL AS IS REPORTED IN EVERY NEWSPAPER MAY 6.

SUCH BEHAVIOR SHOWS ARROGANT AND DELIBERATE DISREGARD OF THE LAWS, CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS OF THAILAND, WHICH IS AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY AND WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN A GOOD FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. FURTHERMORE, THE ACTIONS OF THOSE SECURITY OFFICIALS WERE AN INSULT TO ALL THE THAI PEOPLE. ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTING THAI NEWSPAPERS WHOSE DUTIES ARE TO UPHOLD AND SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF THE THAI PRESS AND THE WELFARE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WELLBEING OF THEIR MEMBERS THEREFORE, PRESENT THIS PROTEST TO YOU AND TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR DEEP REGRET TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE REGARDING THE INCIDENT THAT OCCURRED.

SIGNED: CHOB MANI-NOI
PRESIDENT OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATIONS
PONGSAK PAYAK-VICHIE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPORTERS ASSOCIATIONS
SOOMBOON VORAPONG
PRESIDENT OF THE JOURNALISTS
ASSOCIATIONS

COMMENT: THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS MUCH OF THE HYPERBOLE WHICH HAS SURROUNDED THAI-LANGUAGE PRESS COMMENT REGARDING ALLEGED MALTREATMENT OF THE PRESS DURING THE VISIT, AND WHICH IS CHARACTERISTIC OF THE THAI PRESS ON ANY CONTROVERSY. EMBASSY STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO LETTER AND OTHER ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED SEPTEL.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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